

MINUTES
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 23, 2014
Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: Beebe, Dorgan, Fecho, Ferrigno, Hirschorn, McGuire, Thompson
Staff Present: Matt Hart, Town Manager; Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Ferrigno.

Public Comment

- No public comment received.

Approval of Minutes

Thompson MOVED, McGuire seconded approval of the October 1, 2014 minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. **Developing an EDC Work Plan.**

- *Business Visitation Program.* McGuire and Hirschorn updated members on progress to-date and provided an overview of what has been learned from first nine businesses.
- *Regional EDC Forum.* Due to time and capacity constraints, members agreed by consensus that April would be a better time for hosting a regional EDC meeting. Hart and Hirschorn volunteered to work on planning the event.
- *Updates from Other Commission Members.* Ferrigno suggested the creation of subcommittees to work on various projects and asked members to think about committees/projects that they would volunteer for. Ideas included visitation/retention, recruitment, how to use the FY14 budget allocation, regional collaboration, and performance metrics. Dorgan requested that some of the committees focus on higher level ideas such as types of businesses and development and matching education with business needs. This concept will be discussed in more detail at the November meeting.

2. **Four Corners Sewer and Water Project.** Hart updated the Commission on the status of the water project and noted that the sewer project referendum is on the November ballot.

3. **EDC Membership.** Hart advised the Commission that Bresnahan resigned due to time conflicts; members by consensus expressed interest in having Hart advertise the vacancy per usual methods. Hart also discussed the interest from Town Council members in participating in the Commission. Members discussed the possibility of inviting Town Council members and others such as UConn representatives to participate as non-voting, ex-officio members.

Hirschorn MOVED, Fecho seconded to allow up to five (5) ex-officio members with the right of full participation except the right to vote. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. **NextGenCT impact study.** Hart noted that staff is negotiating a contract with the selected firm; UConn will fund 75% of the study.

New Business

5. **Next Meeting/Agenda Items.** Painter distributed a draft 2015 meeting schedule for member review; adoption of the schedule will be added to the November agenda. The focus of the November meeting will be on establishing subcommittees.

Dorgan departed at 6:50 p.m.

Reports

- **Business Activity.** Painter updated the Commission on recent business activity including proposed Dress Barn and Dollar Tree stores in the former JC Penney space at East Brook Mall and tenants for the corner building at the Price Chopper site.
- **Events.** Painter reported on the Windham Chamber regional event held in October. Hart noted that UConn would be presenting their draft master plan to the community in the coming weeks; the Commission will be invited.
- **Other.** Hart provided the Commission with a brief overview of preliminary revaluation figures.

Thompson departed at 6:55 p.m.

McGuire MOVED, Hirschorn seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda M. Painter, AICP
Director of Planning and Development